

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

May 2022

News



Photo: Bluebells around Castle Campbell, Dollar, Scotland

Minister:

Rev. Sonya Setchell

01823 490975

0748500448

Secretary:

Tim Spotswood

01823 490142

www.ssgbaptist.com



From Sonya

During the month of May, communities across the country and the Commonwealth are getting ready to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the beginning of June. Our Queen is widely respected, particularly due to her strong sense of duty and because of her commitment to serve her people consistently over so many years. She has shown great perseverance and self-sacrifice during her reign. The Queen often speaks of her commitment to her Christian faith and of the way that God has enabled her to carry out her duties throughout the years.



Our Lord Jesus said of Himself in Mark 10:45 that He “came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” He also called His followers to serve and not to try and lord it over other people. One way of commemorating our Queen's long reign could be to take seriously her commitment to serve people and society and to commit ourselves to do the same. Let's choose to commit ourselves to working for the benefit of everyone in our local community. If you are looking for a challenge, you could even choose with a group to commit to doing 70 acts of service during this year! If you are looking for ideas, have a look at this webpage: <https://www.theplatinumjubilee.com/serve/>

Let's thank God for our queen and follow her example of service to others.

Blessings to you all,
Sonya

You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance. *Psalm 65:11 (NLT)*

From the Deacons

Two deacons met with Sonya at the Manse in April (travels and illness prevented the other two deacons from attending). Although fewer in number, we had a productive and meaningful meeting. We continued to reflect on Joshua and to seek how to lead better by reading Joshua 10:1-14. Those on our pastoral list were lifted in prayer.

We discussed ongoing maintenance issues within the church and the Manse – we are fortunate that we can benefit from the time and practical ability kindly offered by deacons, those within the church membership and the local community, to help resolve some of the issues.

We discussed forthcoming services and events, including the AGM, the Platinum Jubilee cream tea, the Big Sleep Out, and the Ovenden's visit in May. New BMS World Mission partners, Tim and Melanie Spears who work in Chad, were suggested, and will be put forward for a decision at the next church meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm after we shared the Grace.

2022 SSG Baptist Church AGM

The AGM will be held on **Sunday 22nd May**, immediately after the Sunday service.

It's important to attend the AGM (both church members and non), so that the church's future actions and direction are discussed and decided upon, after reviewing the past year. New deacons will be nominated and voted in (please pray that people will put themselves forward to serve as deacons, especially to take up the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. Please talk to one of the current deacons or Sonya if you are wondering if this is for you.)



Baptist Assembly 2022

This will be a live event at the Bournemouth International Centre from **Saturday 14th to Sunday 15th May** and the first in-person gathering for three years! BBC Songs of Praise will be filming at the Assembly through the day on Saturday for an episode dedicated to Baptists Together (to be broadcast on **Sunday 26th June**). It is hoped that the programme will be a celebration and opportunity for explaining what it means to be a Baptist Christian.

Things get going on the Friday with an opportunity to meet up at West Cliff Baptist Church, Bournemouth 6pm to 8pm. The church will serve tea and coffee in their church hall, but attendees are also invited to visit a local takeaway or bring a picnic, to eat together and share conversation. Steve Tinning (Public Issues Enabler, BUGB) will be available to talk to about supporting refugees from Ukraine. Advance booking is necessary for Friday since numbers are limited due to space.

Registration and Tickets for the In-Person Assembly are available to book online www.baptist.org.uk (tickets for the whole weekend or for specific days only. Children and Young People's tickets are free) and there is also an option to register to join the Assembly via an online link for the main stage sessions, if you're unable to attend in person.

Deadline for registration is Sunday 8th May.



Big Sleep Out

We are hoping to fundraise for Arc by joining in with their **Big Sleep Out** on **Friday 10th June**. We are inviting people in our community to

join us in sleeping out in the Baptist church grounds between 6.30pm on the Friday night, through to the Saturday morning when a Big Breakfast will be served. Those taking part will be able to raise money through sponsorship - we will have a Just Giving page, or paper sponsorship forms can be provided. We appreciate that not everyone will be able to or want to sleep out but hope instead that you will take part by sponsoring someone who is.

Those wishing to join in with the Big Sleep Out can choose whether to bring their own basic shelter (small tent) or to "brave it" and sleep out under the stars in a warm sleeping bag. Toilets will be available inside the chapel throughout the sleep out, and hot drinks will be provided to keep people warm. It's up to you what other evening snacks or entertainment you might wish to bring along! We are not looking to replicate what it's really like for those who have no choice other than to sleep out, but it's an ideal opportunity to raise awareness of how Arc provides for their clients, and to raise much needed funds.

The Big Sleep Out is open to all ages and we hope that some of the younger members of the village will want to take part with their families. All minors must be accompanied by a parent/carer who will be responsible for them for the duration of the Sleep Out.

Please contact Amanda Saunders to register your interest in taking part in the Big Sleep Out with The Baptist Church so that we have an idea of numbers. Email Amanda at the.saunders@care4free.net or telephone 01823 698398. *Please register your interest by Monday 16th May.* Full information and 'consent forms' will be sent out shortly after this deadline.



Making a Difference

Operation Christmas Child (run by Samaritan's Purse) has a long history in Ukraine and has a wide network of Ukrainians who work with OCC. Since February Samaritan's Purse has provided aid and support – setting up an Emergency Field Hospital on the outskirts of Lviv, establishing a Medical Stabilisation Point at a busy train station in Lviv and an

Emergency Outpatient Clinic in Southern Ukraine as well as another outpatient Mobile Medical Unit in Moldova.

Hundreds of churches in the UK are involved in OCC so Samaritan's Purse is also matching up Ukrainian Operation Christmas Child team members and/or their families with UK church members who chose to act as sponsors and hosts in their homes. They will also arrange and pay for the travel of those coming to the UK. If you are interested in working with Samaritan's Purse UK to host a Ukrainian individual or family, who are part of the OCC network in Ukraine, you can find out more information and register on their website www.samaritans-purse.org.uk You must be able to confirm that you have at least one spare bedroom(s) available for at least 6 months and must have registered on the government's "Homes for Ukraine" website before filling in your details as well as your church's details.

Even if you're not able to act as a host, you can still support by donating online to help fund the costs involved in supporting Operation Christmas Child workers and their families to take refuge in the UK, including travel and settlement costs, plus fund vital medical work in and around Ukraine for all who need it.

*"But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him."
Luke 10:33-34*

For our Prayers

Helen and Simon Gittins, Edith, George and Bertie
Anne Jackson
Peter and Sue Nicholas
Jean Pimm
Paddy Scott
Messy Church and all who enjoy this ministry



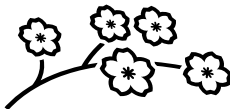
We pray also for Joan Thatcher, Mary Strange, Sonya Setchell, Carolyn, Stoke St Gregory Primary school and its staff. For Ukraine and all those involved in the refugee crisis.

BMS Birthday Scheme



We celebrate the birthdays this month of
Joan Thatcher on 1st (Scheme Secretary!)
Anne Gadsby on 20th

We thank them for supporting the scheme and wish them a very happy day.



May Flowers

1st	Liz Hembrow	22nd	Gill Yaskin
8th	Dianne Callaghan	29th	Anne Jackson
15th	Edwina Hanson		

June 5th Amanda Saunders

May 2022 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Sun 1st	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP with Communion led by Dave West
Weds 4th	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 5th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 8th	10.30am	CAFÉ CHURCH – Resurrection People 2: Renewing Joy
Mon 9th	7.30pm	Deacons Meeting
Weds 11th	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 12th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 15th	10.30am	SUNDAY SERVICE with Joe and Louis Ovenden, followed by a Bring & Share Lunch
Weds 18th	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 19th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 22nd	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP – Resurrection People 3: Restructuring Imagination
		CHURCH MEMBERS AGM
Weds 25th	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 26th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 29th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP with Communion – Resurrection People 4: Resurrection Bodies